

December 21, 2011

Notes from Brownfields Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Topics: Status of the EPA grant review process, program planning, and scheduling
 Hunters Point Family
 Project labor agreements
 Upcoming events

Announcements

Upcoming environmental workforce related conferences:

- The 15th National Brownfields Conference is headed to Atlanta, Georgia on May 15–17, 2013. The conference, co-sponsored by U.S. EPA, is the largest and most comprehensive event in the nation that focuses on issues important to community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of contaminated properties. Stay tuned to www.brownfieldsconference.org for more information on the 2013 conference!
- NAWB Forum 2012 Dialogue for Workforce Excellence
March 10 – 13, 2012
Hilton Washington
The program is posted online at:
www.nawb.org/forum/
- Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2012
The program is posted online at:
www.oklahomabrownfields.com
- Ohio Brownfields Conference 2012
May 23 - 24, 2012
Columbus Convention Center
Attendee Registration
Coming in Jan/Feb 2012
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
February 2 - 4, 2012
The program is posted online at:
www.epa.gov/tp/calendar/conferences.htm

Links to the Good Jobs, Green Jobs conferences can be found at www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm. Registration for Green Jobs Regional Conferences are now open.

- Southern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
February 23 & 24, 2012
Atlanta, Georgia
- Western Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
March 15 & 16, 2012
Los Angeles, California
- Eastern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
April 3 & 4, 2012
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Midwestern Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
May 10 & 11, 2012
Detroit, Michigan

Status of the EPA grant review process

The Requests for Proposals have been delayed until January

It appears that EPA has been “swamped” with a variety of projects including the processing and review of Brownfield Assessment, Revolving Loan and Cleanup grant proposals due on November 28th. These grants are key to the success of job development and training grants as projects from these grants act as catalysts for environmental job creation.

Program planning and scheduling (assuming a January RFP release) – an example schedule:

- Requests for proposals – January 2012
- Proposals due March – April 2012
- Preparation of proposals and review on various levels
- Initial screening of proposals (qualifying criteria) (rejected proposals notified in 2-3 weeks)
- Intensive review of proposals (ranking criteria)
- Grant awards July – August 2012
- Annual All Grantee Meeting in Alexandria, VA – August 2012
- First training cycles begin late 2012 – Early 2013
- Optimal placement opportunities – First quarter 2013

Thanks for the contributions from PLC member Lena Miller with Hunters Point Family

The Hunters Point Family (HPF) is a grass-roots, community-based, youth development agency that provides holistic educational, social, and enrichment programs to youth and their families living in the primarily African American Bayview Hunters Point community of San Francisco. Visit their site at <http://www.hunterspointfamily.org>.

The Bayview Hunters Point community is a classic environmental justice issue. The community degraded by the operation a major shipbuilding operation now closed with multiple superfund sites and a contaminated environment. Over 70% of public housing residents (the target population of the Hunters Point Family) have incomes below the federal poverty level of \$14,739 for a family of four. Children living in the Bayview Hunters Point community, located in the southeast sector of the City, live a very different existence. Children of Bayview Hunters Point must endure the harsh reality of poverty, rampant drug abuse, and overwhelming violence. Yet with all this poverty and crime, being one of the most desirable redevelopment locations in land-starved San Francisco, former community residents are being pushed out in record numbers.

Will or can local residents, victimized by industrial development and pushed out by gentrification share the economic benefits of environmental cleanup and redevelopment?

This story is played over and over in most of our urban and even some rural communities, perhaps on a smaller scale, but with similar outcomes. Addressing this issue is the basis and objective of the EPA Environmental Job Development and Training Program.

Question: how do we position environmental job development and training programs to become part of the redevelopment process? We began to address this issue and will continue on January 11th.

Project Labor Agreements – One way to become part of the redevelopment process

A Project Stabilization Agreement (PSA), more commonly called a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), is a contract between the owner or managing entity of a construction project or a collection of associated projects, and a set of labor unions. Much like “job-site constitutions,” these contracts establish terms regarding worksite conditions, project execution, and protocol to resolve labor disputes without resorting to labor strikes and employer lockouts. Most PLAs/PSAs include community workforce goals that increase access to construction jobs for veterans, local residents, disadvantaged workers, and small businesses.

Project labor agreements are becoming more popular as they are a “win - win” for the developer, community, and local workforce. Job training programs need to locate project labor agreements (PLA) in their community. PLAs are likely to exist for projects with government resources, bond issues, and large developments; and involve organized labor.

After locating projects with PLAs, it is important to become associated with the community workforce goals written into the agreement. In communities where PLAs are being developed, work hard to be included in the terms of the agreement. Specific mention of the environmental job development program should be a goal. Such inclusions will provide a direct linkage with redevelopment jobs for the term of the project, which can last for many years. A continued discussion regarding PLAs and how they are working in Los Angeles can be found at <http://constructionacademy.org/news/smallbusiness/>. In the midst of the current jobs crisis, a new UCLA report shows that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has managed to create exceptional opportunities for small and disadvantaged businesses using PLAs.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: January 11, 2012
 2:00pm EST

Topic: Establishment, implementation and sustainability of Environmental Job Development and Training Programs

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.